



NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Dalrymple Proclaims Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed Tuesday, October 15, 2013, as *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day* in North Dakota.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is a time to remember those babies who have died too soon and to give support to the families grieving that loss. In 2012, 52 infants lost their lives from many causes such as prematurity, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), birth defects and accidents.

“This is a day that is meant to provide support to families who are coping with the loss of an infant, whether it is from miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS or other causes,” said Katie Bentz, North Dakota SIDS Management Program director for the North Dakota Department of Health. “By bringing awareness to infant loss, parents and families can find that they are not alone in this process of grief and can find support in others who have experienced this difficult loss.”

Activities of remembrance are planned throughout the state during the month of October.

Dana Schweitzer is a Bismarck mother who is grieving the loss of her daughter, Lakin, who passed away in September 2008. Through Dana’s local non-profit organization, Angel Wings, white flowers will be placed on all marked graves of babies buried in Bismarck and Mandan starting on Sept. 28. These flowers will remain in the cemeteries until Oct. 26, at which time they will be removed until the next year. Families are also asked to light a candle at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15 to remember those babies who have passed. “I hope this gesture will help families to know that their babies are gone, but not forgotten,” said Schweitzer.

For more information, contact Katie Bentz, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4538.

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